THE MARYLAND STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

State Horticultural Society Holds Summer Meeting

College Park, Md., Sept. 1.

The summer meeting of the Maryland State Horticultural Society which was held at Hancock, August 29-30, was the occasion for a most enthusiastic gathering of fruit growers and their friends. Located in the heart of the apple region of Washington county, Hancock afforded an unusual attractive setting for a horticultural meeting. Mayor Thomas P. Gilleece made the address of welcome at an open air meeting on the night of August 29. State Senator Orlando Harrison of Berlin, past president of the Society, made a most happy response in accepting the hospitality of Hancock. Apple grading and packing, with especial reference to the new Maryland law, was the subject of interested discussion during the evening. State Senator S. L. Lupton of Winchester, Va., president of the Eastern Fruit Growers' Association, and Prof. W. M. Scott of the Office of Markets, Department of Agriculture, opened the discussion, pointing out the increased importance of proper grading and packing and the helpfulness of the laws regulating this important part of the apple industry. They expressed their approval of the action taken by the Maryland Society in securing such legislation, and urged fruit growers in this State to use their influence and example in carrying its provisions into effect.

The most popular feature on the program was the 35-mile tour of the orchards surrounding Hancock by 500 of the visiting fruit growers and their friends. It was an ideal opportunity to inspect the 3,000 acres of peach and apple orchards for which this section is famous. Orchards visited were those belonging to the Tonoloway Orchard Co., the Elberta Orchard Co., R. S. Dillon, the Maryland Orchard Co., W. M. Scott, John T. Mason, and the Johnson orchards, Among the visitors touring the orchards and taking part in the day's program were a party of fruit growers who were attending the annual meeting of the West Virginia Fruit Growers' Association at Berkley Springs, and forty members of the Gardeners' and Florists' Club of Baltimore.

Following the tour of the orchards a picnic lunch was served by the ladies of Hancock and vicinity to the visitors and local members of the Horticultural Society. The afternoon program was presided over by President I. H. Moss of Towson, Md., president of the Society. Discussing the general fruit outlook for the East, Prof. M. G. Kains, horticulturist of the Pennsylvania State College, gave some most practical suggestions regarding the handling of the fruit crop under this year's conditions. He regarded the future in fruit growing as most promising for the man who would give his work careful attention and keep in close touch with market conditions and requirements.

Prof. C. S. Richardson of the Maryland State College gave a most forceful address on the necessity of rural organization. He brought to the attention of his audience the results obtained commercially through the organization of farmers in other sections of the country. He asserted that the fruit growers of Maryland, particularly, would find organization an essential to future success, and predicted that with the coming of closer co-operation among farming people that the attractiveness of country life to young men and women would be many times increased. In addition to the commercial advantages of organization, Prof. Richardson pointed out the great need for social organization in the country and the importance of making farm life satisfying to the country woman. The meeting concluded with a short address by Prof. T. B. Symons, secretary of the Horticultural Society, expressing his gratification at the interest shown and calling attention to some of the features of the Maryland Week Exhibition in November. He expressed the sentiments of visiting fruit growers in congratulating them on their good fortune in holding their summer meeting in the heart of a fruit growing section and under such ideal conditions.

Great Milk Shippers' Meeting in Baltimore

College Park, Md., Sept. 2.

Nine hundred milk shippers from Harford, Carroll, and Baltimore counties met in Odd Fellows Hall in Baltimore on August 29 to discuss the possibility of securing a better price for their milk and to form a permanent organization. The meeting was called as a result of a preliminary meeting of Harford county milk shippers at the Hotel Rennert a week previous, who had responded to an invitation from a Committee of the Harford County Pomona Grange. During the discussion at the preliminary meeting on August 22, the following resolutions were adopted for the consideration of milk shippers to Baltimore city.

RESOLVED, 1st. That milk shippers of Baltimore stand for an average price of 20 cents per gallon for all milk averaging 4 per cent butter fat. The rate to be:

September, October, November, December..... 22 cents per gallon.
January, February, March, and April,.....20 cents per gallon.
May, June, July, August.....18 cents per gallon.

2nd. That the price of cream be raised in the same proportion.

3rd. That we insist that the dealers use more care in weighing and testing milk. In the event of a dispute a check test be given on the farm either from the cow testing associations or by a representative from the dealer.

In sending out a copy of these resolutions to 1500 dairymen shipping to Baltimore from adjoining counties, the committee organized at the preliminary meeting stated, "At present prices for feed, land and cows, etc., the milk producer is not making a profit," and urged further that there be at least one thousand shippers present at the mass meeting called for August 29. The milk shippers responded by having over nine hundred of their number present by actual count at the session called for ten o'clock at the Odd Fellows Hall. The meeting was called to order by D. G. Harry, Master of the Harford County Pomona Grange, who presided throughout the day. Following a plain, forceful statement of the reasons for calling the shippers together, Mr. Harry called on W. A. Wheeler, secretary of the meeting at the Hotel Rennert, for a report of that meeting and a reading of the resolutions adopted. A number of speakers then addressed the meeting, including Prof. R. H. Ruffner, of the Maryland State College, I. W. Heaps, of Harford county, a representative of the National Dairy Council, and others. At the close of the morning session a permanent organization was effected to be known as the Maryland and Pennsylvania Milk Producers' Association. The following officers were elected—D. G. Harry, president; W. A. Wheeler, secretary-treasurer; and a Board of Directors, Harry Matthews and J. M. Dennis, Baltimore county; R. D. Baile and Robt. Gest, Carroll county; A. B. Twining and T. Roy Brooks, Harford county; A. B. Smith and H. B. Witter, Frederick county.

In making a fair and accurate presentation of the cost of milk production, the shippers found the County Demonstration Agents of Harford and Baltimore counties, T. E. McLaughlin and J. F. Hudson, of invaluable assistance. Both of these demonstration agents are men of practical dairy experience, thoroughly posted on what has been accomplished in securing fairer prices for milk, and active in co-operating in any effort that will result in the more economical production of milk. In editorial comments on the figures presented by Demonstration Agents McLaughlin and Hudson, the city newspapers acknowledged that there was something more behind the demands of the shippers than a hue and cry for higher prices since the figures presented were based on actual milk production for Baltimore consumption. It was unmistakably shown through the records of the cow testing associations and the current price of labor, equipment, and stock, that the cost of establishing a dairy and producing milk had materially advanced to the point where profitable production was impossible unless a raise in milk prices was obtainable.

In the afternoon there was a vigorous discussion of the matter in hand which resulted in adopting the resolutions calling for an average price of 20 cents a gallon for milk. Owing to the fact that the dealers could not be met in a body by the committee appointed for that purpose in the morning, the officers and directors of the Association were instructed to meet the dealers as soon as possible and secure their agreement to terms proposed. In event no agreement could be reached the committee was instructed to call another meeting of the entire membership of the Association for further consideration of the situation. Although the feeling was freely expressed among the membership that they were willing to undertake a strike if it became necessary, there was evident a strong desire to settle the question in a manner fair to the dealers and the public, and based on the practical merits of their case. This spirit of co-operation and the presentation of their case to the public supported by the actual facts regarding production will be the basis for their next step in securing fairer returns for their milk.

Following the mass meeting at Odd Fellows Hall the committe of the shippers arranged for a meeting with the dealers at the Hotel Rennert on Thursday, August 31. At this meeting no definite agreement was reached owing to the great railroad strike which was then pending. The conference then adjourned until September 15, to allow a thorough investigation of the cost of milk production on which a satisfactory settlement can be based. It is proposed that such an investigation shall be conducted by the State Board of Agriculture or some other impartial body to which the shippers are entirely willing to submit their case believing that present conditions warrant all they demand.